

Status: Active: Preliminary Draft

DOE Lead: (NTP-AL: Judith Holm, 505-845-4767

Group Facilitator: Judith Bradbury (PNNL): 202-646-5235

Background:

The concept of a consolidated grant arose from recommendations provided by TEC and other external parties to the DOE Senior Executive Transportation Forum in July 1998. It was recommended that DOE consider consolidating the multiple funding streams from various DOE programs into a single grant to provide a more efficient, equitable means of assistance to impacted States and Tribes in preparing for DOE nuclear materials shipments. The Forum appointed a DOE internal working group to examine the issues and report back. Following this report, the Forum suggested continued discussions about the feasibility of a consolidated grant process within DOE and with State and Tribal stakeholders. These discussions are continuing.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Topic Group is to identify and clarify key issues concerning the proposed consolidated grant from the perspective of potential State and Tribal recipients. Specific issues on which DOE is seeking input include:

- How should DOE, States and Tribes define the minimal level of preparedness with respect to DOE radioactive material shipments (planning, training, equipment and information)? What results should the grant produce?
- What criteria should DOE, States, and Tribes use to measure the level of preparedness resulting from the grant?
- What activities should be funded to achieve the results desired? (i.e., allowable activities).
- How should the funding be allocated?
- If a formula is used, what factors should be included (numbers of shipments, population, highway miles) and should they be weighted?
- Should a discretionary grant component be adopted to address specific needs or special activities and, if so, how should it be designed and implemented?
- What State and Tribal administrative features will affect implementation of the proposed grant? What does DOE need to know to enhance efficiency of the administrative process and to ensure accountability of recipients?
- What issues are of particular concern to the Tribes?
- Should there be different criteria for States and Tribes? If so, what are the different criteria?

Schedule:

1. Initial Conference Call, December 13, 1999:
 - Discussion/explanation of concept.
 - Overview of issues previously raised at the TEC meeting in July 1999 and summary of Senior Executive Transportation Forum comments.
 - Request to members to identify and list priority issues from the perspective of their organization/constituency.
2. Conference Call, January 19, 2000
 - Discussion of this draft Task Plan and schedule.
 - Identification and clarification of issues that are a priority to topic group participants.
 - Allocation of responsibilities to members for developing preliminary statements on priority issues.
3. Topic Group Meeting, Las Vegas, February 15-17, 2000
 - Discussion of grant features and issues.
 - “Hands-on” demonstration of potential FINCALC formula to demonstrate use of various features/weighting of factors in allocating potential funding.
 - Agreement on next steps/actions.
4. Conference calls, April through June (monthly)
 - Continued circulation and discussion of members’ views on grant features.
 - Preparation of draft issues/options paper for presentation to TEC, July 2000.
5. Subsequent TEC and Senior Executive Transportation Forum Activities
 - Briefing on Topic Group discussions to Senior Executive Transportation Forum, March, 2000).
 - Compilation of Topic Group discussions and Senior Executive Transportation Forum comments, for review at TEC meeting, July 2000.
 - Presentation of issues/options paper to DOE Senior Executive Transportation Forum, Fiscal Year 2000.